



## Memorandum

To: Provosts and Chief Academic Officers  
From: Paula K. Compton Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor  
Date: August 5, 2022  
Subject: Endorsement Survey: Industry Recognized Credential Assurance Guide (ITAG) in Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC)

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**Background Information:** The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) is reaching out to collect responses from all two- and four-year Ohio public institutions of higher education regarding a proposed alignment for the Industry Recognized Credential Assurance Guide (ITAG) in Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC).

The Industry Recognized Credential Transfer Assurance Guide (ITAG) is a statewide transfer initiative that guarantees the award of college-level credit to students earning agreed-upon industry recognized credentials. The ITAG initiative was instituted by the Chancellor in February 2021. Students meeting credentialing requirements, regardless of where the learning was achieved, will be eligible to earn credit for specified courses deemed equivalent by faculty and endorsed by Ohio's public institutions of higher education. As some Career-Technical Assurance Guides (CTAGs) use credentials to align with college credit, ITAGs expand the concept of the value of credentials. To reduce variability across Ohio in the transfer credit evaluation and application process, a set of college-level learning outcomes will be established for each ITAG. The set of learning outcomes, which will be aligned with applicable third-party program accreditation, credentialing, and/or other industry standards, will be vetted by faculty and industry as needed.

**Programmable Logic Controller TAG (OET022):** The Programmable Logic Controllers Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG) guarantees statewide transfer of credit for introductory PLC courses between Ohio's public colleges and universities. Learning outcomes for the PLC TAG were endorsed by the state through a panel collaboration and statewide survey and were announced in May 2017. Institutions have submitted documentation demonstrating how their courses meet the OET022 learning outcomes. Submissions are reviewed and approved by a faculty panel of experts.

**Programmable Logic Controller ITAG:** The TAG established a set of statewide learning outcomes; the proposed ITAG would use the same learning outcomes and align them to the content of the credentialing exams for the proposed industry-recognized credentials. The ITAG would thus expand access to college credit to students who did not take an introductory PLC course at a public institution of higher education in Ohio. If approved, the ITAG would permit the awarding of 3 credit hours for the introductory PLC course at any Ohio public college or university to students who hold any one of the following certifications (or, in the case of the Siemens certificates, any one pair of credentials):



- Siemens SCE Certificate in Automation and Certificate in Advanced Automation
- Rockwell Automation (Allen-Bradley) Logix Programmer Certificate
- Mitsubishi Electric PLC & HMI

**Programmable Logic Controllers TAG vs. ITAG:** Credit for the PLC ITAG will be awarded in an identical manner to that of the TAG, though the initiatives serve different student populations: The PLC TAG facilitates the transfer and application of credit for students moving between Ohio public colleges and universities. In contrast, the PLC ITAG would expand eligibility for college credit to students who completed their PLC training outside of an Ohio public college or university. Any student who holds any of the endorsed PLC credentials, regardless of where the knowledge was obtained for the certification exam, would be eligible to earn credit for an introductory PLC course at an Ohio public institution of higher education. The receiving college or university will award credit for the same PLC course for all students who qualify for either TAG or ITAG credit.

**What We Need from You:** This memo addresses the need for statewide endorsement of the alignment between competencies covered in the proposed PLC credentials and the learning outcomes for the existing OET022 TAG course. Please forward this memorandum and accompanying attachments to the appropriate faculty. Please have **one person** complete the survey using the link below on or before **Friday, August 26, 2022**.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NRWYS2S>

A copy of the proposed ITAG learning outcomes and alignment is included with this memo for reference. The attached PDF of the survey is for reference only and responses should be submitted using the survey link.

Rob Speckert of Miami University serves as our lead faculty expert and worked with a faculty panel to complete this alignment.

Please contact Nikki Wearly, Director of Career-Technical Education Transfer Initiatives, at [nwearly@highered.ohio.gov](mailto:nwearly@highered.ohio.gov) with any questions.

Thank you for your assistance with this important matter.

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